

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 39

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST 1976

- 1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at half-past two p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
The President (Senator the Honourable Condor L. Laucke) took the Chair.

2 PRAYERS.

- 3 PETITIONS: Senator Melzer presented a petition from 140 citizens of Australia praying that the Government observe the promise in the Prime Minister's election speech to maintain Medibank and standards of health care.

Petition received and read.

Senator Messner presented a petition from 161 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate increase patient subsidies to nursing homes.

Petition received and read.

Senator Button presented a petition from 204 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate take steps to continue the Australian Assistance Plan.

Petition received and read.

Senator Keeffe presented a petition from 60 citizens of Australia praying that the Parliament act to ensure that land is restored to Aborigines and Islanders resident in Queensland and that certain legislation is abolished or nullified.

Petition received and read.

Senators Sibraa and Georges presented petitions, similar in wording, from 34 and 98 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Government act to improve certain social security benefits for pensioners.

Petitions received and one petition read.

Senators Kilgarriff and Robertson presented petitions, similar in wording, from 699 and 673 citizens of Darwin, respectively, praying that the Senate urge the Government to continue funding all applications for loans from the Home Finance Trustee as and when received.

Petitions received.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 88 citizens of Australia praying that the Government reconsider its decision to cut the budgets of St Luke's Hospital, Garden Settlement and other institutions providing care for the aged within Queensland.

Petition received and read.

Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 22 citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes not be introduced.

Petition received and read.

Senator Georges presented a petition from 62 citizens of Queensland praying that the Senate ensure that agreements between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to health matters be maintained and that Medibank not be altered in cost or complexity.

Petition received and read.

Senator Walsh presented a petition from 19 citizens of Australia praying that the Government retain at least the original Medibank scheme.

Petition received and read.

Senator Melzer presented two petitions, similar in wording, from 51 and 2 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Petitions received and one petition read.

Senator Baume presented a petition from 281 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Government use its diplomatic resources to secure the well-being and release of Gunars Rode and other prisoners of conscience in Soviet prisons.

Petition received and read.

Senator Cavanagh presented a petition from 337 citizens of Australia praying that the cuts already made in the budget of the Children's Commission be restored and no further cuts be made in children's services.

Petition received and read.

The Clerk announced that the following Senators had lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Senator James McClelland, from 57 citizens of Australia praying that proposed legislation be amended to allow Medibank to compete on equal terms with private health organisations.

Senator Thomas, from 54 citizens of Australia praying that the Government retain at least the original Medibank scheme.

Senator Guilfoyle, from 10 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate give urgent consideration to the continuation of federal finance for family planning and similar organisations.

Senator James McClelland, from 29 citizens of Queensland praying that the Senate ensure that agreements between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to health matters be maintained and that Medibank not be altered in cost or complexity.

Senators Baume and Guilfoyle, similar in wording, from 4 and 31 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Government act to improve certain social security benefits for pensioners.

Senators Sir Magnus Cormack and Webster, similar in wording, from 207 and 204 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate take steps to continue the Australian Assistance Plan.

Senators Webster and Sir Magnus Cormack (3), similar in wording, from 84, 55, 93, and 59 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate increase patient subsidies to nursing homes.

Senators Webster, Sir Magnus Cormack and Button, similar in wording, from 10, 13 and 15 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed, and that there be a proper balance between the Government's programme of public austerity and the need for action in conservation.

Petitions received.

4 NOTICES OF MOTION: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) gave notices of Motion as follows—

No. 1—That, on the next day of sitting, she would move—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to increase certain Amounts of Compensation payable to and in respect of Seamen, and for other purposes.

No. 2—That, on the next day of sitting, she would move—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to increase certain Amounts of Compensation payable to and in respect of Commonwealth Government Employees and certain other Persons, and for other purposes.

No. 3—That, on the next day of sitting, she would move—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the *United States Naval Communication Station (Civilian Employees) Act 1971*.

5 QUESTIONS.

6 RETIREMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT:

The President informed the Senate of the retirement during the recess of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, Mr W. J. Bridgman, O.B.E. He referred to Mr Bridgman's long and meritorious service to the Parliament and wished him well in his retirement. The President announced that Mr K. R. Ingram had been appointed Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), the Leader of the National Country Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Webster) and Senators Douglas McClelland and Harradine, by leave, made statements supporting the President's remarks.

- 7 **URGENCY MOTION:** The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) advising that this day he intended to move—"That in the opinion of the Senate the following is a matter of urgency: The Government's economic policies which are producing increased unemployment and undermining business confidence."

And at least four Senators having risen in support of the motion—
Senator Wriedt thereupon moved the motion.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Senator Messner moved—That the Question be now put.

Question—That the Question be now put—put and passed.

Main Question—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 24		NOES, 33	
Senator—	Senator—	Senator—	Senator—
Bishop	McClelland,	Archer	Martin
Brown	Douglas	Baume	Maunsell
Button	McIntosh	Bonner	Messner
Cameron	McLaren	Carrick	Missen
Cavanagh	Melzer	Collard	Rae
Coleman	Mulvihill	Cormack,	Scott
Colston	Primmer	Sir Magnus	Sheil
Devitt	Robertson	Cotton	Sim
Gietzelt	Ryan	Davidson	Tehan
Grimes	Sibraa	Drake-Brockman	Thomas
Harradine	Walsh	Durack	Townley
Keeffe	<i>Teller:</i>	Guilfoyle	Walters
McAuliffe	Georges	Hall	Webster
		Jessop	Wright
		Kilgariff	Young
		Knight	
		Lajovic	<i>Teller:</i>
		Laucke	Chaney

And so it was negatived.

- 8 **SCHOOLS COMMISSION—REPORT FOR TRIENNium 1977-79—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Schools Commission Act—Schools Commission—Report—Rolling Triennium 1977-79, dated July 1976.

Senator Carrick, by leave, made a statement relating to the Paper.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Wriedt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 9 **TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION COMMISSION—REPORT FOR TRIENNium 1977-79—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Technical and Further Education Commission Act—Technical and Further Education Commission—Report for Triennium 1977-79, dated July 1976.

Senator Carrick, by leave, made a statement relating to the Paper.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Wriedt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 10 UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION—REPORT FOR TRIENNium 1977–79—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Universities Commission Act—Universities Commission—Report for Triennium 1977–79, dated July 1976.

Senator Carrick, by leave, made a statement relating to the Paper.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Wriedt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 11 REMUNERATION TRIBUNALS ACT—PAPERS: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—

Determination Number 1976/4, relating to holders of public offices, together with an explanatory statement, dated 21 June 1976.

1976 Review—

Reports—

1976/1—Salaries payable to Ministers of State, dated 21 June 1976.

1976/2—Remuneration payable to Judges, dated 21 June 1976.

Determinations—

1976/5—Allowances payable to Ministers of State, dated 21 June 1976.

1976/6—Salaries, Allowances and Entitlements of Members of Parliament, dated 21 June 1976.

1976/7—Remuneration payable to holders of offices in the First Division of the Australian Public Service and holders of public offices, dated 21 June 1976.

Statement, dated 29 June 1976.

Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Douglas McClelland have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 12 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION—ROYAL COMMISSION—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Australian Government Administration — Royal Commission — Report, and Appendixes (4 Vols.).

Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Douglas McClelland have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 13 MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Manufacturing Industry—Policies for Development—Report (Vol. 2—Statistics) to the Prime Minister by the Committee to Advise on Policies for Manufacturing Industry, dated April 1976.

Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Douglas McClelland have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 14 OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS—PAPER: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Overseas Professional Qualifications—Seventh Report of Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications, dated December 1975.

Senator Mulvihill, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Mulvihill have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 15 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY—ORANGE JUICE—PAPER: The Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Temporary Assistance Authority—Report on Orange Juice, dated 15 July 1976.

Senator McLaren, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator McLaren have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 16 PAPERS: The following Papers were presented, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Capital Territory Police Force—Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

Australian Postal Commission—Service and Business Outlook for year 1976–77, dated August 1976.

Australian Telecommunications Commission—Service and Business Outlook for year 1976–77, dated August 1976.

Industries Assistance Commission—

Interim Report—Domestic Refrigerating Appliances, etc. (Chest Freezers of up to 350 Litres Capacity), dated 7 July 1976.

Reports—

Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, dated 24 December 1975.

Railway and Tramway Locomotives, Rolling Stock, etc., dated 7 June 1976.

Short Term Assistance to Commercial Theatre, dated 1 July 1976.

Textiles Authority—Report—Knitted and Woven Apparel, dated 20 April 1976.

Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Sheets and Plates of Iron or Steel, dated 7 May 1976.

National Training Council—Second Annual Report, for 1975.

Poultry Research Advisory Committee—Third Report, together with financial statements, for year 1974–75.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Fishing Industry Research Act—Sixth Annual Report of the Fishing Industry Research Committee, together with financial statements, for year 1974–75.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances 1976—

No. 33—Flammable Liquids (Amendment).

Regulations 1976—

No. 13—(Cemeteries Ordinance).

- 17 ABORIGINES AND ISLANDERS EVIDENCE (CONFESSIONS) BILL 1976: Senator Bonner, pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That leave be given to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Admissibility as Evidence of Confessions by Aborigines and Islanders, and for purposes connected therewith.

Question—put and passed.

18 ORDER OF BUSINESS: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—

- (1) That intervening business be postponed till after the consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 2, relating to the Report of the Standing Committee on Education and the Arts on the Education of Isolated School Children.
- (2) That Government Business, Order of the Day No. 2 (Trade Practices Amendment Bill 1976) be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Question—put and passed.

19 REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP:

The President informed the Senate that he had received letters from the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate stating that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) and Senators Devitt and Brown had requested that they be discharged from service on the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances and nominating Senators Missen, Cavanagh and Georges as members of the Committee in their places.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by leave, moved—That Senators Durack, Devitt and Brown be discharged from service on the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances and that Senators Missen, Cavanagh and Georges, having been duly nominated in accordance with Standing Order 36A, be appointed to the Committee.

Question—put and passed.

20 STATES GRANTS (ABORIGINAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 100

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for Financial Assistance to the States in relation to Aborigines*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 3 June 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Guilfoyle the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Guilfoyle moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keeffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

21 EXPORT FINANCE AND INSURANCE CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 101

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act 1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 3 June 1976

PHILLIP E. LUCOCK,
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Cotton the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Cotton moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keeffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 22 HOMES SAVINGS GRANT AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 102

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Homes Savings Grant Act 1964-1975'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 June 1976

PHILLIP E. LUCOCK,
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Carrick the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Carrick moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 23 DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND (DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS TO PENSIONERS) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 103

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for the Distribution amongst certain Defence Force Pensioners of certain of the moneys paid out of the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Fund into the Consolidated Revenue Fund*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 June 1976

PHILLIP E. LUCOCK,
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Cotton the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Cotton moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 24 CRIMES (AIRCRAFT) AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 104

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Crimes (Aircraft) Act 1963-1973'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 June 1976

PHILLIP E. LUCOCK,
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Durack the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Durack moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 25 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 105

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Australian Capital Territory Electricity Supply Act 1962-1973'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 June 1976

PHILLIP E. LUCOCK,
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Science (Senator Webster) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Webster the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Webster moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keeffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 26 EDUCATION AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON EDUCATION OF ISOLATED SCHOOL CHILDREN: Senator Davidson, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate take note of the Report of the Standing Committee on Education and the Arts on the Education of Isolated School Children.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Davidson have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 27 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND) BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

In the Committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, debated and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Davidson) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 28 PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

In the Committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Davidson) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 29 ADJOURNMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—
That the Senate do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
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Paper: Senator Missen, by leave, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Human Rights in U.S.S.R.—Evaluation of the Influence of Conference on Safety and Co-operation in Europe in part relating to Human Rights in U.S.S.R., 1 August 1975 to 1 August 1976. (In Russian language.)

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

The Senate adjourned at eighteen minutes to twelve o'clock midnight till to-morrow at eleven a.m.

- 30 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Greenwood, James McClelland, Wheeldon and Wood.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate